SECOND COMING REVELATIONS

X-FACTOR

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X-FACTOR®

ISSUE 204

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Previously...

With the members of their race slowly dying out and no new mutants being born, mutantkind was on the brink of extinction. In need of a miracle, the X-Men were elated when one came in the form of Hope—a newborn mutant who held the promise of repopulation. Under attack by those who would see mutantkind extinguished, the X-Men sent the infant into the future with one of their own, Cable, to be raised under his protection and one day return to the present.

Now Cable and Hope have returned to the present. But the X-Men were not the only ones awaiting their return: Bastion, a super-Sentinel from the future hellbent on exterminating all mutants, has used an alien virus to revive many of the X-Men's enemies, including the creator of Sentinel technology Bolivar Trask. The virus allows Bastion to control those he reanimates but the minds of the undead remain intact, leading them in some cases to fight back against his control. But Bastion's hold is too strong and the members of his cabal are seemingly unable to free themselves from his influence. Now Bastion and his undead cabal are in pursuit of Cable and Hope in an effort to seal mutantkind's fate once and for all.

Meanwhile, Monet has gone deep into South America to retrieve her kidnapped father, only to herself be taken prisoner by her father's captor, Baron Mordo, who has his own plans for Monet. But Guido, a.k.a. Strong Guy, has tracked her to Mordo's lair and is now calling Mordo out...which could prove to be a disastrous mistake.

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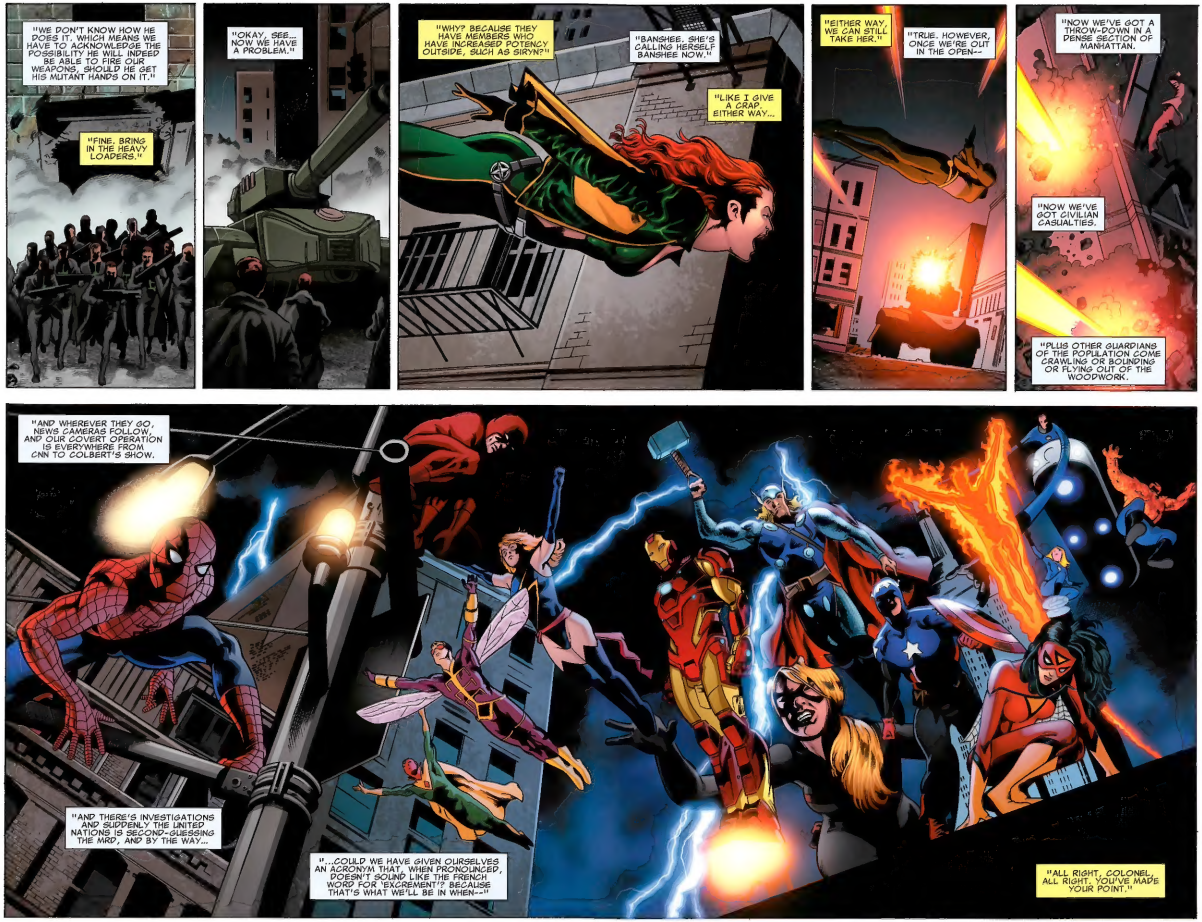
ARRRHHH!
"WE HAVE GAINED ENTRANCE TO X-FACTOR HEADQUARTERS.
"TARGET 'RICTOR' IS READILY DISPATCHED."

"WE HAVE SQUADS COMING IN FROM ALL DIRECTIONS. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SWEEP THROUGH AND--
JULIO!!!
"TARGET SHATTERSTAR, ATTACKING FROM THE...?"
YAAHHH!

"WE OPEN FIRE ON TARGET SHATTERSTAR.
"HIS AGILITY IS INSANE. HOW CAN HE DODGE THAT MANY SHOTS AT POINT BLANK RANGE?
"WHO'S THAT? OH. IT'S..."

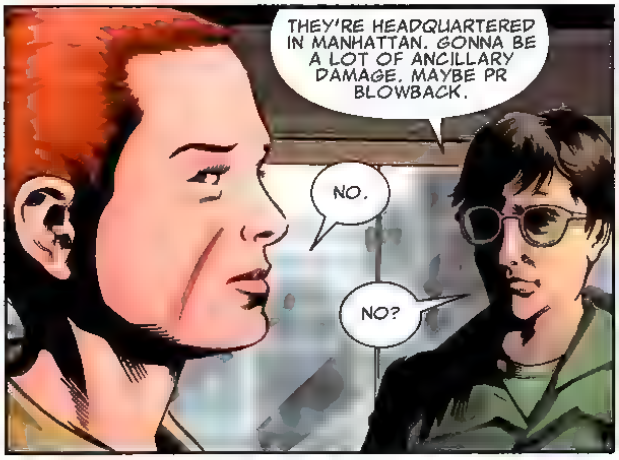
DO YOU GUYS HAVE ANY IDEA HOW SCREWED YOU ARE?
LET ME REPHRASE THE QUESTION...
...AS A MULTIPLE CHOICE.
"NOW WAIT A MINUTE. THAT SHOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE.
"OUR WEAPONRY IS SENTINEL-BASED TECH. A MUTANT SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO PICK IT UP AND FIRE IT.
"AND HOW THE HELL DOES MADROX PRODUCE MULTIPLES OF WHATEVER HE'S HOLDING? HOW IS THAT EVEN FEASIBLE?"


"WE DON'T KNOW HOW HE DOES IT, WHICH MEANS WE HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE POSSIBILITY HE WILL INDEED BE ABLE TO FIRE OUR WEAPONS, SHOULD HE GET HIS MUTANT HANDS ON IT."
"FINE. BRING IN THE HEAVY LOADERS."
"OKAY. SEE. NOW WE HAVE A PROBLEM."
"WHY? BECAUSE THEY HAVE MEMBERS WHO HAVE INCREASED POTENCY OUTSIDE, SUCH AS SIRYN?"
"BANSHEE. SHE'S CALLING HERSELF BANSHEE NOW."
"LIKE I GIVE A CRAP, EITHER WAY..."
"EITHER WAY, WE CAN STILL TAKE HER."
"TRUE. HOWEVER, ONCE WE'RE OUT IN THE OPEN--"
"NOW WE'VE GOT A THROW-DOWN IN A DENSE SECTION OF MANHATTAN."
"NOW WE'VE GOT CIVILIAN CASUALTIES."
"PLUS OTHER GUARDIANS OF THE POPULATION COME CRAWLING OR BOUNDING OR FLYING OUT OF THE WOODWORK."
"AND WHEREVER THEY GO, NEWS CAMERAS FOLLOW, AND OUR COVERT OPERATION IS EVERYWHERE FROM CNN TO COLBERT'S SHOW."
"AND THERE'S INVESTIGATIONS AND SUDDENLY THE UNITED NATIONS IS SECOND-GUESSING THE MRD, AND BY THE WAY..."
"...COULD WE HAVE GIVEN OURSELVES AN ACRONYM THAT, WHEN PRONOUNCED, DOESN'T SOUND LIKE THE FRENCH WORD FOR 'EXCREMENT'? BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT WE'LL BE IN WHEN--"!
"ALL RIGHT, COLONEL. ALL RIGHT. YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT."

SO WHAT WOULD YOU SUGGEST THEN, COLONEL? THE MUTANTS HAVE TO DIE.
YES, SIR. I KNOW. HOWEVER, EACH OF THE SIMULATIONS THE COMPUTER'S BEEN RUNNING SHOWS THAT DISPATCHING X-FACTOR SPILLS OVER INTO SCENARIOS THAT DON'T SUIT OUR NEEDS.
THE PROBLEM IS--
MORAN
U.S. ARMY
THE PROBLEM IS, COLONEL MORAN, THAT X-FACTOR HAS SITUATED ITSELF SQUARELY IN THE MIDDLE OF A POPULATED AREA IN ORDER TO USE HUMANS AS SHIELDS AGAINST ATTACK.
HOW CAN THAT CYNICISM NOT FILL YOU WITH OUTRAGE?
BECAUSE, DR. TRASK, THE LAST TIME I LET MYSELF GET OUTRAGED, THIS WAS THE RESULT. OUTRAGE GETS PEOPLE HURT OR KILLED.
I DON'T MIND GETTING PEOPLE KILLED SO LONG AS IT'S PEOPLE OTHER THAN ME OR MY PEOPLE.
NOR IS THE PROBLEM THEIR CYNICISM. THE PROBLEM IS THAT THE MUTANT RESPONSE DIVISION IS CHARGED TO ADDRESS MUTANT ACTS OF TERRORISM.
SO?
SO THEY'RE NOT TERRORISTS. THERE'S NOTHING FOR US TO RESPOND TO.
THE X-MEN AND THEIR FRIENDS HAVE CREATED AN ILLEGAL NATION FOR THEMSELVES. X-FACTOR IS A BUSINESS. THEY'VE BROKEN NO LAWS.

THERE ARE HIGHER LAWS, COLONEL.
THERE ARE HIGHER LAWS, COLONEL.
TO START WITH, THE LAWS OF NATURE ITSELF.
TO START WITH, THE LAWS OF NATURE ITSELF.
THEY HAVE ABROGATED THEIR RIGHT TO LIVE BY DINT OF THEIR EXISTENCE.
THEY HAVE ABRO...
ABROGATED.
AB-RO-GA-TED.
ABRO...
BASTION!
BASTION?
DOCTOR, ARE YOU ALL RI--?
BASTION... OF HOPE...AGAINST THE MUTANT THREAT, MORAN, IS WHAT WE ARE.
I HAVE INTELL THAT X-FACTOR IS AN INFORMATION GATHERING ARM FOR THE X-MEN.
THEY'RE SPYING ON BEHALF OF THE MOST EXTREME ELEMENTS OF MUTANTKIND.
YOU NEED TO TRUST ME, MORAN.
NO, SIR, I DON'T. I NEED TO TRUST THE CHAIN OF COMMAND. AND I DO.
IF YOU SAY X-FACTOR NEEDS TO BE TAKEN OUT... THEN WE TAKE THEM OUT.

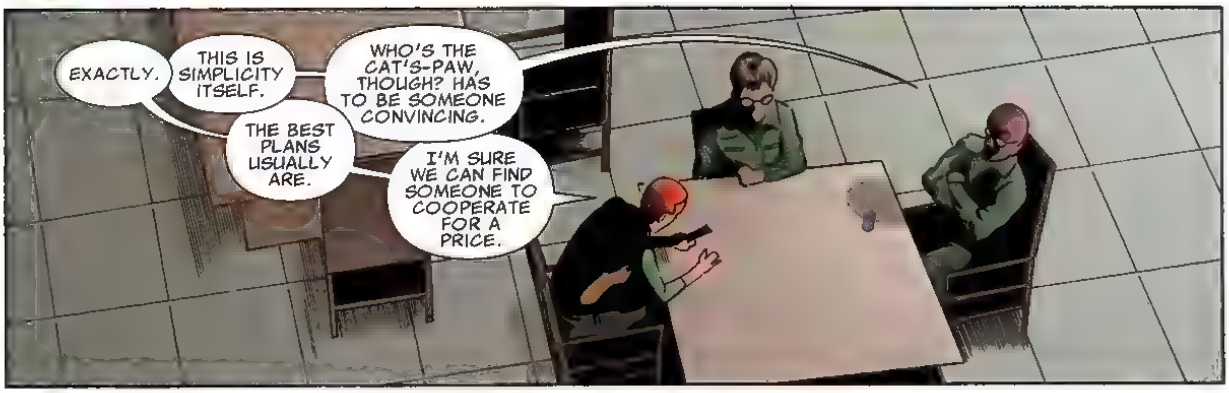
WE'RE TAKING OUT X-FACTOR? WHAT'S THEIR CRIME?
ASSOCIATING WITH KNOWN TERRORISTS, I.E., THE X-MEN. YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT, SYLVIUS?
NO, SIR, ALTHOUGH YOUR TENDENCY TO USE LATIN ABBREVIATIONS IN NORMAL CONVERSATION KINDA TICKS ME OFF.


THEY'RE HEADQUARTERED IN MANHATTAN. GONNA BE A LOT OF ANCILLARY DAMAGE. MAYBE PR BLOWBACK.
NO.
NO?

NO?
NO. BECAUSE WE'RE GOING TO USE THIS AGAINST THEM.
WE'RE USING YOUR BOSOM? I LIKE YOUR CONFIDENCE.

VERY FUNNY, COLONEL. I WAS THINKING THIS.
A CHECKBOOK?
YES.

A CHECKBOOK.
YES.
WE HIRE THEM. WE USE A CAT'S-PAW AND HIRE THEM SO THAT THEY HEAD TO SOMEWHERE DESOLATE, AND THAT'S WHERE WE TAKE THEM OUT.


EXACTLY.
THIS IS SIMPLICITY ITSELF.
THE BEST PLANS USUALLY ARE.
WHO'S THE CAT'S-PAW, THOUGH? HAS TO BE SOMEONE CONVINCING.
I'M SURE WE CAN FIND SOMEONE TO COOPERATE FOR A PRICE.

YOUR WIFE IS CHEATING ON YOU? IS SHE INSANE?
YEAH, 'CAUSE I'M SUCH A PRIZE CATCH, HOW COULD ANY GIRL THINK OF STEPPIN' OUT ON ME, RIGHT?
WELL, NO. IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE, Y'KNOW...
THE ABSORBING MAN.
RIGHT. THERE'S PLENTY OF WOMEN OUT THERE WHO AREN'T MARRIED TO, Y'KNOW...
A SUPER VILLAIN.
RIGHT. I MEAN, A CUCKOLDED HUSBAND UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE IS PROBLEMATIC. ONE WHO CAN--

DO THIS?
RIGHT.
AND THIS.
MY POINT EXACTLY.
WHO WOULD BE *STUPID* ENOUGH...?
THAT'S WHAT I WANT'CHA TO *FIND OUT*, OBVIOUSLY.
AND ONCE WE DO?
YOU TELL ME AND I DO THE REST. OR DO YA HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
I HEAR YER OKAY WITH WORKING FER GUYS LIKE ME IF THE PRICE IS RIGHT.
TRUE ENOUGH. WE'RE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYEE.
WILL THIS COVER IT?
MORE THAN.
LONGSHOT: TAKE THE GENTLEMAN'S MONEY.

ME?
BUT RICTOR USUALLY HANDLES THE--
YOU.
HANDLE IT.
OKAY.
SURE.
I'M ON IT.
IF YOU GIVE US AN ADDRESS WE CAN STAKE OUT, WE CAN PUT A TAIL ON HER.
TITANIA'S BEEN A CROOK FOR A WHILE. SHE'S GOOD AT SPOTTING SOMEONE FOLLOWING HER.
WELL, WE'RE GOOD AT FOLLOWING PEOPLE, SO THAT WORKS OUT.

DO NOT DO THAT AGAIN.
IT WAS JUST FOR A MOMENT.
NO MOMENTS.
EVER.
BUT...X-FACTOR ISN'T EVEN JOINING THE X-MEN IN UTOPIA. WITH THEIR RACE FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL, X-FACTOR IS ON THE SIDELINES.
IRRELEVANT.
EXTERMINATION IS MANDATORY. UNDERSTOOD?
YES, BASTION... OF COURSE I UNDERSTAND.
DOCTOR TRASK
YES!
BRAVO TEAM HAS LOCATED TARGETS ST. CROIX AND CAROSELLA IN SOUTH AMERICA.
PUT THEM DOWN, COLONEL.
PROBLEM IS, THEY'RE ON A RESCUE MISSION INVOLVING ST. CROIX'S FATHER, A DIPLOMAT. THE STATE DEPARTMENT REQUESTS--
LIKE I GIVE A DAMN ABOUT STATE.
TWO LESS MUTANTS IS TWO LESS MUTANTS, COLONEL. THAT'S JUST MATH.

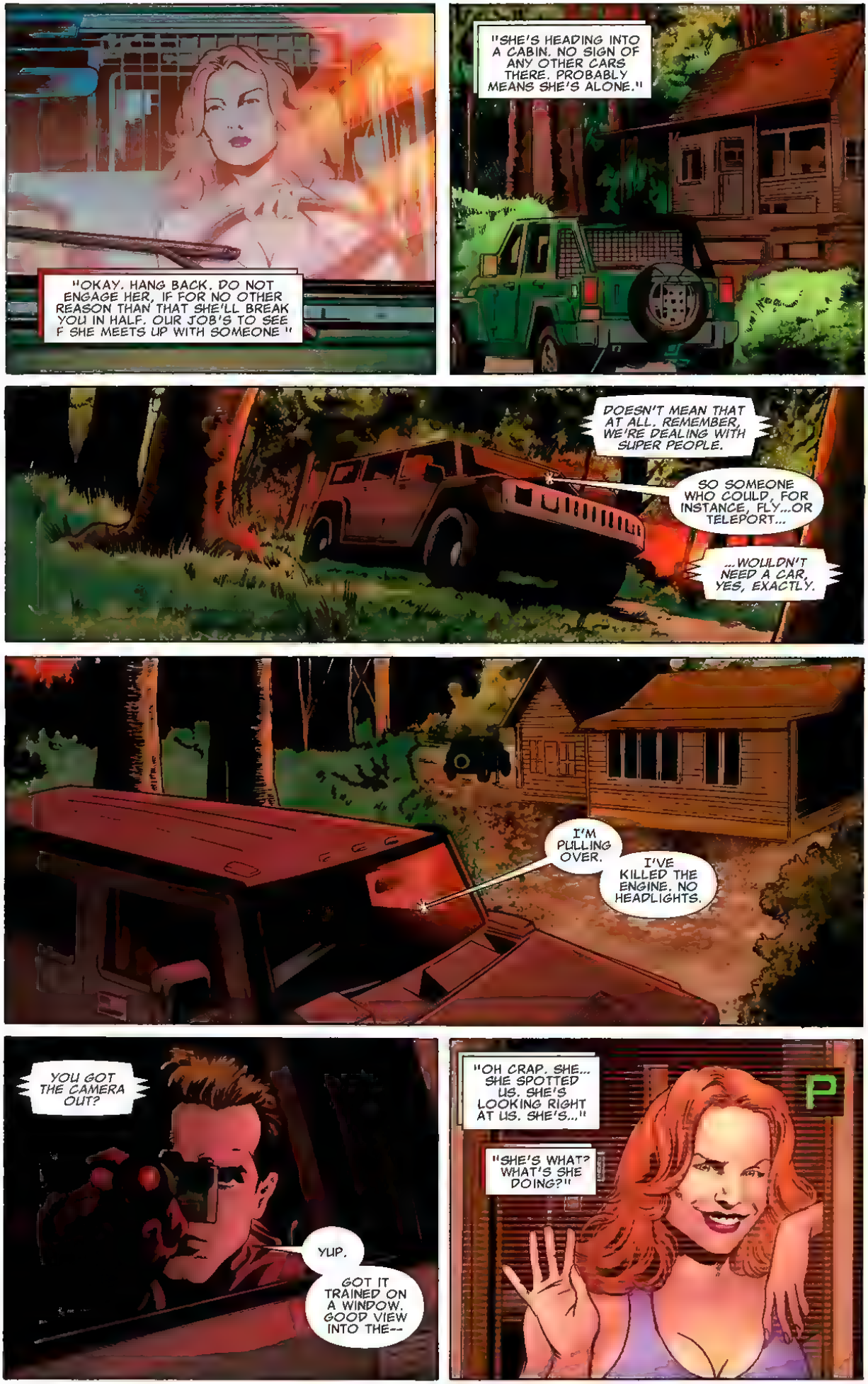
"TAKE THEM. THAT'S AN ORDER."
UH-KAY! IF YA CAN HEAR ME IN THERE...AND I BET'CHA CAN...THEN SEND OUT MONET AND HER DAD, AND I PROMISE T'KICK YER BUTT ONLY *HALFWAY* T'MARS!
INDEED.
IMAGINE MY RELIEF.
IMAGINE HOW MUCH I WAS TREMBLING AT THE PROSPECT OF BATTLING A MALFORMED STRONG MAN.
STRONG GUY.
WHATEVER.

TELL ME, STRONG GUY...DO YOU HAVE ANY CLUE HOW TO THWART A SIMPLE BINDING SPELL?
YES? NO? NEED TIME TO THINK?
I'M WAGERING "NO," ACTUALLY.
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
I AM BARON KARL AMADEUS MORDO. AND IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING...
I AM USING ENERGIES DRAINED FROM YOUR ASSOCIATE, MS. ST. CROIX, TO OVERCOME THE PATHETIC WEAKNESS THAT MY BODY HAS INFLICTED UPON ME.
I JUST THOUGHT YOU'D WANT TO KNOW, BEFORE YOU DIED, THAT MONET MADE IT POSSIBLE.
IF THE TWO OF YOU SHOULD EVENTUALLY MEET IN HELL...
...DO THANK HER FOR ME.

EE'YAARRHH!!!
TARGETS ACQUIRED! ALL TROOPS, MOVE IN!
NOW WHO THE HELL ARE *THESE* GUYS?!
You... you dare...?
IS THIS ONE EVEN A MUTANT?
THE BIG ONE *DEFINITELY* IS! TAKE HIM!

UNNHHHHH!!!!
CONCENTRATE FIRE! HIS HIDE'S TOUGH...
...BUT THESE ROUNDS SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET THROUGH EVEN---
NYARRHH!!!!
UNNHHH!!!!
I THINK WHAT WE NEED HERE IS SOMETHING AT CLOSE RANGE...
AIEEEEEE!!!
You people...
have no idea...
...how dead you are
NEITHER DO YOU, FREAK!

WE'RE HEADING FARTHER UP INTO THE MOUNTAINS.
YOU'VE GOT OUR POSITION TRACKED?
YUP. IS THE D.R. TECH WORKING?
LIKE A CHARM.
I DUNNO, MAYBE I WAS THE WRONG PERSON TO SEND INTO THIS. MAYBE A DUPE WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER...
NOPE. HAD TO BE YOU. HAVE SOME CONFIDENCE.
THAT'S APPRECIATED, BUT--
UH-OH. TITANIA'S PULLING OFF THE MAIN ROAD.


"OKAY. HANG BACK. DO NOT ENGAGE HER, IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN THAT SHE'LL BREAK YOU IN HALF. OUR JOB'S TO SEE F SHE MEETS UP WITH SOMEONE "
"SHE'S HEADING INTO A CABIN. NO SIGN OF ANY OTHER CARS THERE. PROBABLY MEANS SHE'S ALONE."
DOESN'T MEAN THAT AT ALL. REMEMBER, WE'RE DEALING WITH SUPER PEOPLE.
SO SOMEONE WHO COULD, FOR INSTANCE, FLY...OR TELEPORT...
...WOULDN'T NEED A CAR, YES, EXACTLY.
I'M PULLING OVER.
I'VE KILLED THE ENGINE. NO HEADLIGHTS.
YOU GOT THE CAMERA OUT?
YUP.
GOT IT TRAINED ON A WINDOW. GOOD VIEW INTO THE--
"OH CRAP. SHE... SHE SPOTTED US. SHE'S LOOKING RIGHT AT US. SHE'S..."
"SHE'S WHAT? WHAT'S SHE DOING?"
P

I THINK SHE'S WAVING GOOD-BYE.
BUDDABUDDABUDDA
BUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDA

BUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDA
MRD
CEASE FIRE!
GLEASON. GIVE ME A SITREP. BE CAREFUL, THESE MUTANTS CAN BE TRICKY SONS OF--
TARGETS ELIMINATED, SIR. NO SIGN OF ANY BACKUPS. NO BREATHING, NO MOVEMENT.
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.
EXCELLENT. NOW WE NAIL THE ONES IN SOUTH AMERICA AND IRELAND, AND WE CAN CALL IT A DAY.
X

X-MEN SECOND COMING

NEXT:

X-FACTOR #205

MARCH 2010:

- [x] CHAPTER 1: X-MEN: SECOND COMING #1

APRIL 2010:

- [x] CHAPTER 2: UNCANNY X-MEN #523
- [x] CHAPTER 3: NEW MUTANTS #12
- [x] CHAPTER 4: X-MEN: LEGACY #235
- [ ] CHAPTER 5: X-FORCE #26
- [x] X-MEN: SECOND COMING – REVELATIONS: X-FACTOR #204

MAY 2010:

- [ ] CHAPTER 6: UNCANNY X-MEN #524
- [ ] CHAPTER 7: NEW MUTANTS #13
- [ ] CHAPTER 8: X-MEN: LEGACY #236
- [ ] CHAPTER 9: X-FORCE #27
- [ ] X-MEN: SECOND COMING – REVELATIONS: X-FACTOR #205
- [ ] X-MEN: SECOND COMING – REVELATIONS: HELLBOUND #1
- [ ] X-MEN: SECOND COMING – REVELATIONS: BLIND SCIENCE #1

JUNE 2010:

- [ ] CHAPTER 10: UNCANNY X-MEN #525
- [ ] CHAPTER 11: NEW MUTANTS #14
- [ ] CHAPTER 12: X-MEN: LEGACY #237
- [ ] CHAPTER 13: X-FORCE #28
- [ ] X-MEN: SECOND COMING – REVELATIONS: X-FACTOR #206
- [ ] X-MEN: SECOND COMING – REVELATIONS: HELLBOUND #2

JULY 2010:

- [ ] CHAPTER 14: X-MEN: SECOND COMING FINALE
- [ ] X-MEN: SECOND COMING – REVELATIONS: HELLBOUND #3

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